

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06

DODE-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01 /106 W

----- 087956

R 111705Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1033

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13453

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, GW, EG

SUBJECT: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT - NUCLEAR ASPECTS

REF: (A) STATE 189483; (B) BONN 18154 (75);

(C) STATE 15586 (75)

1. EMBASSY S&T COUNSELOR CALLED ON GRUENDEL, DIS-  
ARMAMENT SECTION, IN THE FRG FONOFF. EMBOFF LEFT  
NON-PAPER WITH SUBSTANCE REF A, NOTING U.S. HAD MADE  
ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS BEFORE IN CONSULTATIONS REPORTED  
IN REFS B AND C. EMBOFF ASKED THAT FRG MINISTRY OF  
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND KREDITANSTAIT FUER WIEDERAUFBAU  
ALSO BE INFORMED THAT USG HAD ONCE AGAIN MADE A FORMAL  
DEMARCHE TO THE FRG TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDER-  
STANDINGS OF U.S. VIEWS ABOUT THE USE OF NUCLEAR  
EXPLOSIVES IN THE QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT.

2. GRUENDEL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE HAD MADE THAT POINT  
CLEAR. THE FRG SHARED THE U.S. ASSESSMENT THAT A MAJOR  
EXCAVATION USING NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES WOULD VIOLATE  
THE LTBT. HE REVIEWED, HOWEVER, THE VIEWS OF THE  
NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES AS HE UNDERSTOOD THEM AND  
AS THEY HAD EMERGED DURING THE JUNE MEETING OF THE IAEA  
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AD HOC ADVISORY GROUP ON PNE'S IN VIENNA. HE FELT

THAT THE EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS IMPROBABLE THAT NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES COULD BE USED IN THE QATTARA PROJECT. NEVERTHELESS, THE EGYPTIANS AND OTHERS WERE PRESSING THE POINT, HE BELIEVED, TO INSURE THAT THE NWS DID NOT ESCAPE THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE V OF THE NPT. EVEN THE FRG, WHICH SHARED THE U.S. VIEW ABOUT MAJOR EXCAVATIONS, WOULD NOT WANT TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF PNE'S FOR SUITABLE PURPOSES.

3. WHIIIE GRUENDEL RECOGNIZED THAT THE PRESENT CONSULTATION WAS CONFIDENTIAL, HE ASKED WHY THE U.S. DID NOT MAKE ITS VIEWS ABOUT THE NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF THE QATTARA PROJECT PUBLIC, TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND ACCUSATIONS. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE TACTICALLY UNWISE TO DO SO UNTIL THE FEASIBILITY STUDY HAD BEEN COMPLETED. IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE STUDY WOULD CONCLUDE THAT NUCLEAR EXCAVATION WOULD BE TECHNICALLY AS WELL AS POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE. GRUENDEL SPECULATED THAT THE ENTIRE PROJECT MIGHT NOT PROVE TO BE FEASIBLE AT ALL BUT OBSERVED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE OBVIOUSLY VERY SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN IT.

4. ECON COUNSELOR HAS ALSO CONVEYED U.S. VIEWS TO OPPELT OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTRY, WHO UNDERTOOK TO PASS THEM ON TO HOPFEN AND ROSKE OF THE KREDITANSTALT FUER WIEDERAUFBAU. OPPELT SAID THAT HE AND HIS FRG COLLEAGUES ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE WERE ALREADY WELL AWARE OF THE U.S. POSITION ON THE MATTER. HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT OUR VIEW HAD BEEN BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO THE ATTENTION OF MINISTER SULTAN AND THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN OFFICE. HIS OWN MINISTRY, OPPELT SAID, HAS ALWAYS EMPHASIZED ITS TECHNICAL ROLE AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF LTBT QUESTIONS. HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EGYPTIANS STILL THOUGHT THEY HAVE A GOOD IEGAI CASE FOR PNE MEASURES IF STUDIES SHOULD INDICATE THEIR FEASIBILITY.

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HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

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